country's Army Chief to visit India in a major political initiative to improve bilateral relations; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) There has, so far, been no official response from the Government of Pakistan.

(b) Does not arise.

Visit of foreign minister of Iran

3139. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Minister of Iran Mr. Ali Akbar Velayati, visited New Delhi in May this year;

(b) if so, what were the main issues discussed with him and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the follow up steps, if any, since taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) The Foreign Miniser of Iran paid an official visit to India on 18-19 May, 1992.

(b) Talks were held on promoting bilateral cooperation in various fields. Views were also exchanged on global issues of mutual interest, developments in the region and the Non-aligned Movement.

It was agreed that a multi-disciplinary delegation from India would visit Iran in July, 1992 to discuss specific projects which could be undertaken by India. Agreement was also reached on convening the next meeting of the Indo-Iran Joint Commission in November 1992, and on holding consultations on issues related to NAM prior to the Non-aligned Summit.

(c) Foreign Secretary visited Iran from 7-10 July, 1992. The decisions taken during this visit are under implementation.

Visit of Official Delegation to Israel

3140. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any official delegation has lately visited Tel Aviv for identifying areas of cooperation between India and Israel;

(b) if so, what areas of mutual cooperation between the two countries were identified; and

(c) the follow up action taken and being taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes Sir,

(b) An official delegation of the Ministry of External Affairs visited Israel in April 1992 to examine setting up the Indian Embassy and to discuss cooperation in general in areas such as agriculture, civil aviation, tourism, trade and industry.

(c) The Indian Embassy in Israel has been opened. Visits of delegations in civil aviation, tourism and agriculture have taken place. More visits from both sides are contemplated in future.

पूर्व सोवियत संघ से अलग हुए देशों से प्रधान मंत्री को निमंत्रण

3141. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह** : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या प्रधान मंत्री को पूर्व सोवियत संघ से अलग हुए देशों में से किसी देश से निमंत्रण प्राप्त हुआ है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो वे निकट भविष्य में रूस सहित उस क्षेत्र के किन-किन देशों का दौरा करने का विचार रखते हैं।

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर०एल० भाटिया) : (क) जी हां ।

(ख) प्रधान मंत्री को अभी तक रूस संघ, उक्रेन, कजाकस्तान, किर्गीजस्तान, तुर्कमेनिस्तान और उजबेकिस्तान से आमंत्रण प्राप्त हुए हैं । यात्राओं की तारीखें राजनयिक माध्यमों के जरिये तय की जायेंगी ।

Bhubaneswar passport office

3142. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Bhubaneswar Passport Office had a cadre officer as passport officers when it was opened;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for which Bhubaneswar Passport Office do not have cadre officers for the last so many years and run by section officers as Incharge Passport Officers; and

(c) whether Government would consider for the posting of cadre officers at Bhubaneswar Passport Office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATTA): (a) and (b) From the time of its opening in February 1979 till September 1980, the Passport Office, Bhubaneswar was headed by a deputationist from ICAR. Since then except for a short period from December, 1984 to December 1985, the Office has been headed by officers of the Central Passport Organisation.

(c) Does not arise.

3143. [*Transferred to the 17th August,* 1992]

Offer of U.S. President to reduce tension between India and Pakistan

3144. SHRI S. S. AHALUWALIA: SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that U.S. President George Bush has offered his administration's good offices to act as an intermediary to reduce tension and facilitate dialogue between India and Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) In a written interview to "India Abroad", President Bush is reported to have said that the United States "is always ready to act as an intermediary to reduce tension and facilitate dialogue" between India and Pakistan.

(b) Government are committed to the resolution of all outstanding issues between India and Pakistan bilaterally and peacefully within the framework of the Simla Agreement.

Nomination of non-official members on Committee/Boards

3145. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the various committees and/or Boards at various levels and in the various public sector organisations under the Ministry in which non-official members from the public are nominated or elected to represent various interests;